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SOURCE

Unit Designation

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3. Only the unit banner of those units I have given were marked with the unit designation. I saw no documents at all marked. I learned of the designation of other units of the [redacted] by talking to members of various units. I saw neither a documentary listing nor unit equipment marked with the unit designation, but I am sure that the banner of each unit bore the numerical designation of the unit.
4. [redacted] I heard from political officers that the Western Powers do not accept deserters, but return them to Soviet authorities. Except for the statements of one friend who maintained that one could find haven in the West, I heard no propaganda about desertion from line officers, or from Germans. Neither did I hear Allied propaganda about the fate of deserters.
5. Officially, fraternization is strictly forbidden. Most officers would report EM if they fraternized, but EM would not report one another. Usually fraternization was carried on secretly, because EM caught fraternizing with Germans served a 20-day sentence in the guardhouse for the first offense and stood a court-martial for a second offense. German police never interfere when they observe Soviet personnel with Germans, because they fear violence from Soviet troops. However, party and Komsomol members are supposed to report men who fraternize - some do, some do not. Kommandatura patrols will arrest any military personnel whom they catch at fraternization. MGB (the same as OKR) will also arrest all fraternizers.
6. I can give no information about the MI sections of units except that the headquarters platoon CO of my battery, a lieutenant, was also chief of reconnaissance intelligence for the battery. All units higher than battery had intelligence (reconnaissance) officers. Except for the major who introduced himself as an MGB officer following the desertion of my friend, I know of no MGB personnel in the Soviet Zone of Germany. MGB officers can arrest Soviet Army personnel. They turn prisoners over to Kommandaturas or to the respective commander. I know of no MVD in the Soviet Zone of Germany and never heard the term "Smersh" used there.
7. My unit had no security duties other than that of interior guard duty around supply depots and headquarters. Officers need their personal identification in order to enter a compound or other military area; but no identification is needed in maneuver areas. EM are not permitted to leave compounds or other military areas without an officer escort. But in maneuver areas there are no fenced-off areas with check points.
8. Until September 1951, the 2d L Arty Brig had about 20 German women employees who worked as maids, charwomen, waitresses and salesgirls in the officer's restaurant. On 1 Sep 51, most of these were discharged and replaced by Soviet women. I believe that on 9 Sep 51, [redacted] only one German salesgirl and a German salesman were left; both worked in the Voyentorg. I do not know the names or
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the two German employees left with the unit. These German employees entered the compound for work by presenting their identity document and a pass (Propusk). Of the women who were discharged on 1 Sep 51, some were permitted to remain in the area to work until 2000 hours and others remained until 2200 hours, depending upon their duties. However, no Germans lived in the compound or maneuver areas.

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9. I know from personal knowledge that all mail sent to and from the USSR is censored. However, I do not know who censors the mail. All military data, T/O, T/E, OB, supply, food, training, location of units, morale, etc, is prohibited in letters. A letter containing prohibited material is returned to the offender's CO, whereupon the CO or political officer of the unit warns the transgressor. In case of a second offense, the offender is given a 10-day guardhouse sentence. Offenses are rare because most soldiers write, "Dear Folks: I am well. Best regards." The use of the German mails is prohibited. I know of no soldiers who received mail through the German postal system, or who used the German mails secretly.
10. No equipment or buildings may be photographed. Troops may own cameras, which are unregistered, but must have the films processed in the Voyentorg (PX) where the work is done by other soldiers.
11. I was only in a military Kommandatura (differing in scope and mission from regular Soviet Military Administration Kommandaturas) in [redacted]. A major and a lieutenant of the [redacted] were in charge of the Kommandatura. Their duty was to preserve order and surrounding villages and to supervise patrols drawn from various units of the [redacted]. The patrols had the task of apprehending all drunkards, AWOLs and fraternizers (and also officers out after 2300 on weekdays and 2400 hours on Saturday or Sunday). I believe that only two officers were assigned to the Kommandatura permanently. I can give no details on the frequency of assignment of other officers or EM to Kommandatura patrols. I was once assigned as a member of a Kommandatura patrol in [redacted]. One officer, one NCO, and four privates were assigned to the patrol which had the duty of arresting all suspicious persons, AWOLs, drunkards and fraternizers. My patrol arrested no Soviet personnel, but we did arrest a German, just to have some fun.
12. All regimental and separate battalion units or higher, have a "Secret Part" (document section). The unit chief of staff has charge of the section and an NCO is the clerk-typist. This section keeps all orders, regulations, manuals, maps, and correspondence. I never handled secret documents and can give no information about couriers.
13. I know of no instance in which Soviet personnel wore a different uniform or civilian clothes to conceal their identity.
14. Neither in the USSR nor in the Soviet Zone of Germany did I ever hear foreign broadcasts or discuss them with anyone.
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